

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1192 without my signature.

Ensuring the health and safety of California's vulnerable populations is one of my top priorities. To that end, my Administration has increased support for licensing programs, strengthened oversight and sponsored legislation to ensure that potentially dangerous caregivers would be unable to move from one facility to another and continue to have access to children, elderly or disabled individuals in facilities licensed by the State.

While well intended, I am concerned this bill will not provide effective health and safety protections for persons with developmental disabilities and will increase state costs by millions of dollars during a time of budget challenges. This bill does not require that all incidents of substantiated abuse actually be reported to the proposed registry. Second, the bill does not require service providers to actually use the registry. Current law already requires staff of Regional Centers and persons working at community care facilities to report suspected abuse to Adult Protective Services, who in turn is required to investigate these allegations. Given the flaws in the bill and the fact that developing the proposed registry would require significant financial resources at a time of ongoing budget challenges, I cannot support it. I am directing the Health and Human Services Agency to convene interested stakeholders to identify potential areas where the State can enhance protections for persons with developmental disabilities and improve ongoing efforts to enhance the sharing of information about service providers.

For these reasons, I am unable to support this bill.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger